NEVADA CLIMATE SUMMARY

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SYNOPSIS

Despite a cool start, with the mercury falling into the 30's at several locations, July was the 13th consecutive month with above normal temperatures in Western Nevada. The remainder of the State had a little below normal readings. Precipitation was generally below normal except in Eastern Nevada and at a few isolated locations such as Hawthorne. Thunderstorms there brought brief heavy rains, with the 2.12" monthly total being 5 1/2 times normal, breaking the old wet mark for the month of 1.26" set in March 1967. The climate record is 80 years long.

TEMPERATURE

Except for slightly warmer than normal temperatures this month in the western portion of Nevada, the remainder of the State enjoyed a little cooler than normal conditions. Departures were generally (1-2 degrees above normal in the extreme West) 2-3 degrees below normal in the Northeast and 1-2 degrees below elsewhere.

No extreme records were threatened this month as highs reached the "one-hundred teens" along the shores of Lake Mead and the Colorado River, and lows fell into the 20's at some northern locations. For example, Callville Bay had 117 degrees and Laughlin 116, while Pine Valley fell to 25 twice and Reese River had 28. State records for this month are 122 and 18, respectively. In Northern Nevada several places passed the 100 mark (e.g., Battle Mountain 104, Smoke Creek and Lovelock 103, and Fernley 102).

PRECIPITATION

Except for much of Eastern Nevada and a few isolated locations, July 1992 was generally a drier than normal month. However, this is usually the driest month of the year at most sites, so one thunderstorm can make for several times the normal. Such was the case at Hawthorne, where 1.20" fell in 20 minutes and just over 2" in a short lived local thunderstorm. This was very local as only sprinkles fell ten miles away! Some other locations with above normal precipitation were Baker Flat, in Great Basin National Park, with 2.27", Ruth with 1.92", Snowball Ranch 1.64", Carver's had 1.58", Lund and Manhattan 1.57", Great Basin National Park with 1.55", (and snowfall above 8000' on the 1st, and above 9000' on the 9th) and 1.40" at Bob Bransford's Shoshone Ranch between Ely and Great Basin National Park. At Tonopah, where the town Water Department gage caught an above normal 1.06" only a few miles away the Tonopah Airport had less than 1/3 this much!

Some of those locations missed by the thunderstorms were Denio, where Henry Johns had only .03", Golconda, Vya and the North Las Vegas Fire Department with .01", and Laughlin and Alpine View near Carson City, as well as Carson City Fire Department, with no rain.

SUNSHINE, WIND & EVAPORATION

Sunshine hours were near normal, with 91% of the possible hours at Reno (normal = 93%), 90% at Las Vegas (Normal = 87%), a normal of 86% at Winnemucca, and 79% at Ely and a normal of 78%.

Wind speed averages were above normal in the West and South, below normal in the East, and near long-term averages in the North.

Evaporation was near or a little below normal statewide. Some examples were Silverpeak with 17.50", Overton 14.89", Boulder City 14.41", Pahranaghat 11.00", Honey Lake 10.85", Diamond Valley 10.38", Ruby Valley 10.76" and Minden 7.49".

Climate Readings in the Las Vegas Area

Weather observations were first made in Las Vegas by E.B. Kiel at the Kiel Ranch (now an historic site off Carey Avenue in North Las Vegas) in June 1895. Kiel kept records of temperature and precipitation until October 1900 when he was murdered. His early records look reasonable, except for unusually low summer daytime maxima, probably due to location of the thermometers under deciduous trees.

In August 1907, after a seven year lapse, San Pedro, Los Angeles and Salt Lake Railroad Agent J.M. Heaton was appointed weather observer, making temperature and precipitation readings just west of the tracks across from the Depot at Fremont and Main. Due to the agent's busy workload and the interest of Charles "Pop" Squires, Squires helped with the readings in 1908. By 1909 Squires was making all the observations at the Depot. In fact, Squires stated in December 1909 that, "12 inches of snow fell on the 21st for Las Vegas' whitest Christmas, (this record still stands) and on the 31st heavy rains caused floods that washed out the railroad at Meadow Valley Wash and other locations, blocking traffic for five months." The railroad record ended in early 1911 and in November 1912 Squires became the official Las Vegas observer with the equipment located at his home at 411 E. Fremont. This was next to the Las Vegas Age Newspaper Office, where he was editor from 1908 to 1947. Squires remained the Las Vegas observer until 1956 when poor eye site and old age forced him to retire after almost 50 years of climate observations, one of the longest periods for an individual in the U.S. He received several commendations from the National Weather Bureau for his volunteer work. The weather station was moved with Squires to his new home at 408 S. 7th in 1945, so that the last eleven years of observations were taken there near Las Vegas High School. He died in 1958 at the age of 93.

In January 1937 observations began at Western Air Express Airport, located where Nellis Air Force Base is today. The name was changed to McCarran Field in August 1942, but the location didn't change until December 1948, when the equipment and Weather Bureau meteorologists were moved 14 miles to the southwest to McCarran International Airport. (The "International" was added in 1968.)

In the meantime, and while "Pop" Squires was still the "downtown" observer, a new cooperative climate station was established at North Las Vegas Doxarm Kennels in February 1951. This was near College Road and Walnut Street with Allison Reynolds the observer. (The name was changed to Sunrise Manor in July 1961.) When Reynolds relocated to Hawaii in January 1964 the station was moved 1/2 mile south to Covey Lane with Ed Perkins the observer until July 1983 when he moved to Medford, Oregon. The next location was nearby on Stevens Street, with Ray Riecke the observer. In December 1984, Dolores Holm/Tanner took over the duties at her home, also on Stevens Street, until February 1990 when the station was moved to its present location at the North Las Vegas Fire Department on East Cheyenne.

Additional information, plus photos of the old Las Vegas Airport and "Pop" Squires can be found in an article by Ed Vogel in the Las Vegas Review Journal, December 11, 1988.

Historic climate data and station information, including observer correspondence, photos, etc., for all Nevada's climate stations are on file at the State Climate Library.

NOTE: Knowledge of Nevada's precipitation is greatly enhanced by once a year readings from storage gages located in remote areas. Nearly 50 of these gages are extant in the Silver State, some being maintained by the State Division of Water Resources and some by the State Climate Office. As this information may be useful to many people, and because it is no longer published in the open literature, data from these gages is listed in this summary each summer. Numbers on the Nevada Climate map locate the sites.

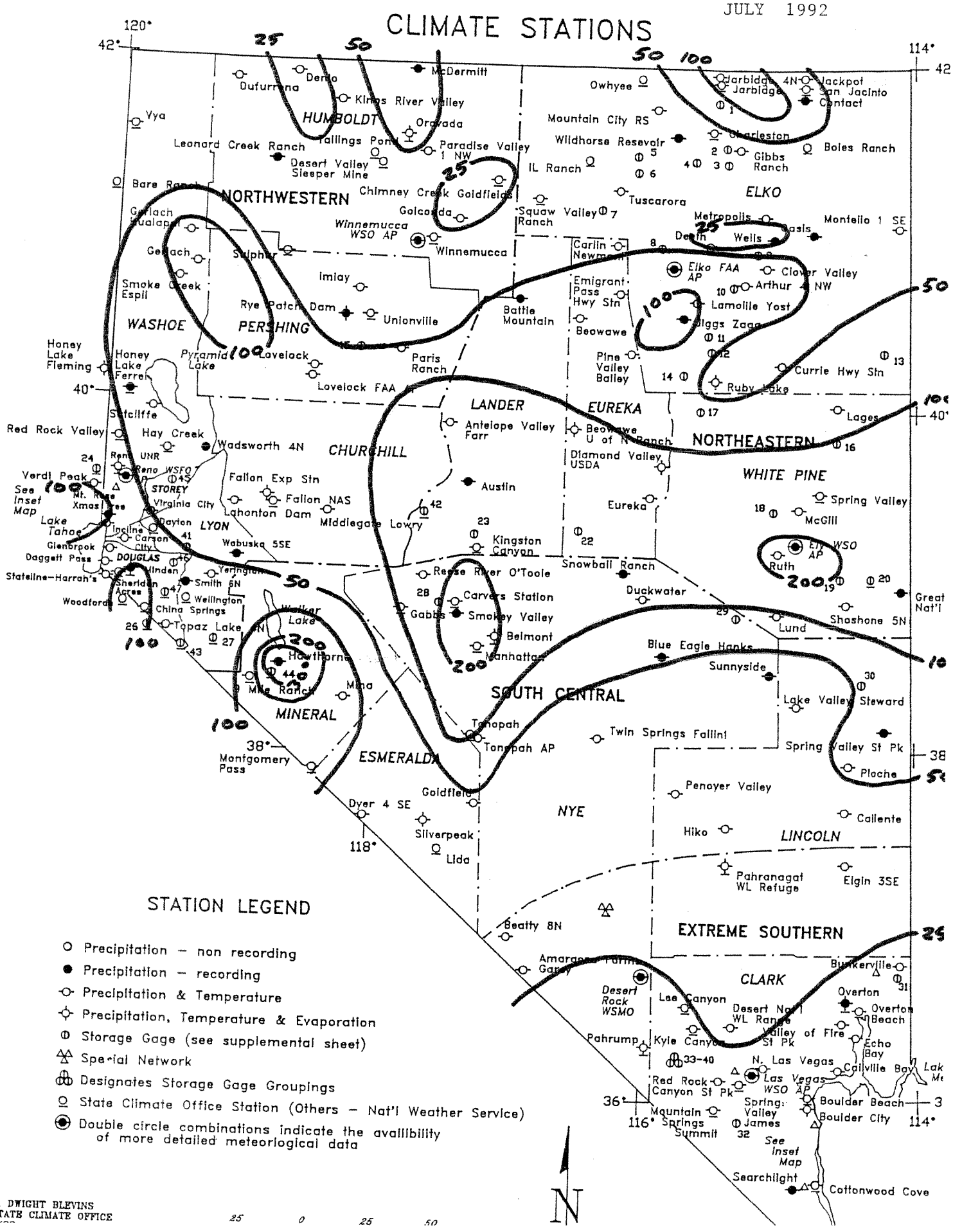
John W. James
State Climatologist

NEVADA

PERCENTAGE OF NORMAL PRECIPITA

JULY 1992

CLIMATE STATIONS



STATION LEGEND

- ○ Precipitation – non recording
- ● Precipitation – recording
- ⊸ Precipitation & Temperature
- ⊹ Precipitation, Temperature & Evaporation
- Φ Storage Gage (see supplemental sheet)
- ⁂ Special Network
- ⁂ Designates Storage Gage Groupings
- ♀ State Climate Office Station (Others – Nat'l Weather Service)
- ◉ Double circle combinations indicate the availibility of more detailed meteorlogical data

F. DWIGHT BLEVINS
STATE CLIMATE OFFICE

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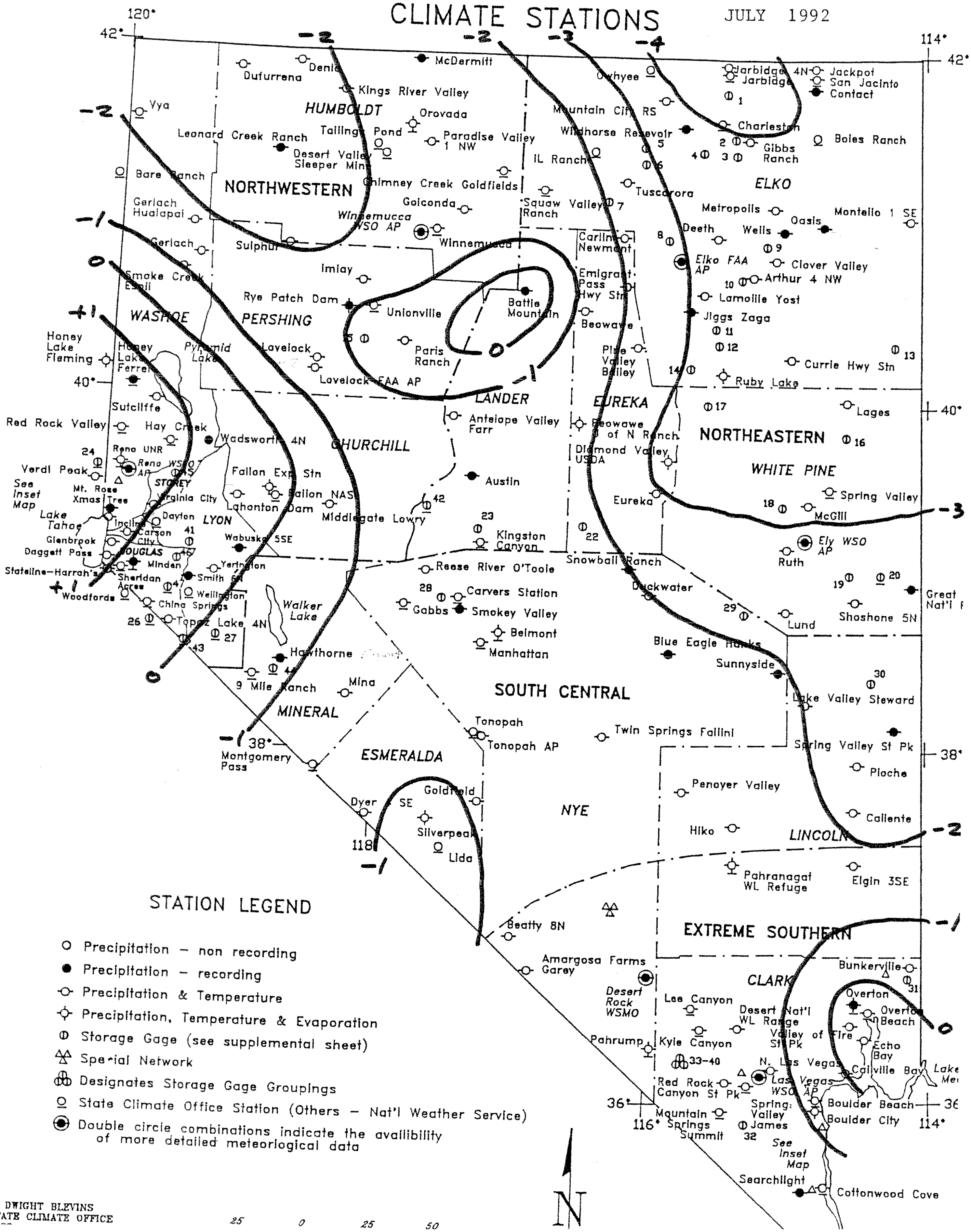
NEVADA

DEPARTURE OF MEAN TEMPERATURE FROM NORMAL (F°)

CLIMATE STATIONS

JULY 1992



STORAGE GAGE INDEX

Storage Gage	Location	1960-91 Averages	July 1991-July 1992
1	Coon Creek Summit	34.32"	22.06"
2	Pratt Creek	17.55"	12.85"
3	Hanks Creek	10.28"	10.25"
4	West Fork Beaver Creek	13.54"	10.30"
5	Jacks Creek Pass	32.00"	18.90"
6	California Creek	12.89"	8.60"
7	Willow Creek Summit	12.88"	9.64"
8	Adobe Summit	14.62"	9.64"
9	Angel Lake	35.27"	14.70"
10	Soldier Creek	---	14.70"
11	Rattlesnake Creek	22.43"	18.60"
12	Harrison Pass	16.78"	14.55"
13	White Horse Pass	8.43"	8.20"
14	Sadler Ranch	8.90"	8.05"
15	Limerick Pass	12.60"	5.45"
16	Shelbourne Pass	13.49"	15.34"
17	Overland Pass No. 2	12.69"	11.20"
18	Robinson Summit	12.56"	14.20"
19	Conners Pass	13.87"	12.43"
20	+Wheeler Camp (Great Basin National Park)	---	26.45"
22	Charnac Basin	12.58"	8.25"
23	Kingston Creek	15.24"	11.25"
24	+Dog Valley Summit, CA	---	16.25"
26	+Leviathan Aspen Grove, CA	---	12.45"
27	+Pine Grove Lobdell	---	13.10"
28	Ione	10.97"	8.25"
29	Currant Creek Summit	12.37"	12.30"
30	Wilson Creek Pass	16.14"	18.74"
31	Bunkerville Mountain	6.28"	11.15"
32	McCullough Pass	6.23"	9.40"
33	Cold Creek Canyon	16.27"	24.55"
34	Wheeler Pass	14.45"	23.65"
35	Lee Canyon	22.35"	30.75"
36	Adams Ranch	20.13"	23.80"
37	Spring Mountain Ranch	10.90"	16.35"
38	Kyle Canyon	19.90"	27.30"
39	Upper Williams Ranch	14.39"	19.70"
40	Roberts Ranch	13.72"	19.35"
41	+Como-Rawe	---	11.40"
42	+Carroll Summit	---	14.05"
43	+Risue Summit (Record began 10/16/91)	---	10.40"
44	+Lucky Boy Pass (Record began 10/16/91)	---	7.90"
45	+Clark Mountain South (Record began 11/1/91)	---	3.75"
46	+Lebo Spring Summit (Record began 11/15/91)	---	7.70"